



State of South Carolina
Office of The Lieutenant Governor

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Aging Issues and Answers #10 – Summer School of Gerontology

By Lieutenant Governor André Bauer

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Question: What's the "Summer School of Gerontology" and can anyone attend, or is it just for people who work in the Aging field?

Answer: For more than 30 years, the annual Summer School of Gerontology has been a place where professionals, advocates, volunteers and others interested in seniors and senior issues could come together once a year for five days of classes, seminars, networking opportunities and fellowship. The vast majority of attendees are professionals involved in government or non-profit agencies that serve seniors, but anyone who is interested in these issues can attend.

The community of people involved in senior issues in South Carolina is growing, following the growth of our state's senior population. The Summer School of Gerontology is a place where all those folks can come together and learn from each other. Students represent various agencies and institutions throughout the state including the departments of Health and Human Services, Social Services, Health and Environmental Control, Mental Health, Area Agencies on Aging, Councils on Aging, colleges and universities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult day care facilities, hospitals, law enforcement, and home health agencies. You might also see leaders of advocacy organizations such as the South Carolina Silver Haired Legislature or AARP SC.

For professionals, Summer School offers the opportunity to earn continuing education credits for various certifications. For others, it's an opportunity to hear about the latest happenings in policy and programs aimed at South Carolina's senior community and a great way to learn what other organizations around the state are doing.

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This year (the 31st annual Summer School), the event will occur in Charleston from August 20 – 24 at the Francis Marion Hotel. Late registration is still available, but most of the scheduled classes are full. However, I'd still like to invite interested seniors who might be interested in seeing what Summer School is all about to come and visit with us on August 22.

Even if you're not able to participate in classes, our exhibit hall will be open throughout the day with many of our sponsors and participants providing informational booths. Staff from the Lt. Governor's Office will also be on hand, and we'd love to talk with you about the programs and services for older South Carolinians that are coordinated by our agency. You may find that the Summer School experience is something that will motivate you to get involved with your local Council on Aging or Senior Center. For more information, contact the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging at 1-800-868-9095 and ask for the Summer School of Gerontology Coordinator.

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